## Message Text

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**ACTION EUR-12** 

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01

R 161709Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 767

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1847

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 2651

PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAGR, EEC

SUBJECT: VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS ON APPLE EXPORTS TO THE EC

**REF EC BRUSSELS 1979** 

1. AS REPORTED IN THE REFTEL, THE COMMISSION HAS BEEN SEEKING INFORMAL COMMITMENTS ON THEPART OF THE FIVE MAJOR SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE APPLE PRODUCERS TO RESTRAIN THEIR APPLE EXPORTS TO THE EC IN APRIL - JUNE 1976. OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE MISSIONS OF THESE COUNTRIES INDICATE THAT SOME SORT OF ARRANGEMENT HAS NOW BEEN CONCLUDED WITH ALL OF THESE COUNTRIES. REPORTEDLY, THE COMMISSON HAS SOUGHT TO LIMIT IMPORTS DURING THE APRIL-JUNE PERIOD TO 240,000 TONS -- THE AMOUNT WHICH ENTERED DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 1974 WHENVOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS WERE IN EFFECT. THE QUANTITIES OF APPLES NOW EXPECTED FROM EACH OF THESE COUNTRIES AS A RESULT OF THE COMMISSION'S BILATERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSSIONS IN APRIL-JUNE IS AS FOLLOWS:

(1,000 M.T.)

SOUTH AFRICA 105
ARGENTINA 61
NEW ZEALAND 34.5
AUSTRALIA 22.5
CHILE 9.5
TOTAL 242.5

- 2. THE AUSTRALIAN MISSION INDICATES THAT THEY MERELY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION THEIR ESTIMATES OF THEIR PROBABLE EXPORTS TO THE EC IN 1976 -- 48,000 TONS WITH ABOUT TWO-THIRD'S, OR 32,500 TONS, ENTERING IN APRIL-JUNE. THESE FIGURES ARE WELL BELOW AUSTRALIA'S 1975 EXPORTS, REFLECTING THIS YEAR'S POOR CROP. THUS, THE COMMISSION INDICATED THAT THEY HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH THIS LEVEL OF EXPORTS. THE AUSTRALIAN MISSION ALSO TOLD US THAT THEIR TOTAL SUPPLIES NOW APPEAR TO BE SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN WHEN THESE ESTIMATES WERE MADE; CONSEQUENTLY, EXPORTS TO THE EC MAY BE EVEN LOWER.
- 3. THE NEW ZEALAND MISSION DESCRIBED THEIR ARRANGEMENT WITH THE EC AS INVOLVING ONLY A RESCHEDULING OF SHIPMENTS. THEY SAID THEY HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO THE COMMISSION THAT THEIR COOPERATION WAS NOT TO BE THOUGHT OF AS CONSTITUTING A VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT OR ASPROVIDING A PRECEDENT FOR RESTRAINT ACTION IN SUBSEQUENT YEARS. (NEW ZEALAND DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE EC'S VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM OF 1974; HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF SHIPPING AND SUPPLY PROBLEMS THEY APPARENTLY DID NOT EXCEED THE LIMIT SUGGESTED BY THE COMMISSION.) THE NEW ZEALANDERS ALSO SAID THEY HAD AN ABOVE AVERAGE CROP THIS YEAR. HINTON

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